## **Amendments to the Abstract**

Please add the following Abstract to this application.

-- A video encoder (200, 300) and corresponding method (400) are provided for mixed inter/intra encoding of a macroblock having a plurality of partitions, where the encoder includes a reference picture weighting applicator (292, 392) coupled with a reference picture weighting factor unit (272, 372) for assigning weighting factors corresponding to each of the inter and intra coded partitions, respectively; and the corresponding method for encoding a macroblock with several partitions includes inter-coding (426) at least one partition and intra-coding (428) at least a second partition. --